

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-10 CU-02 AGR-05 EB-07

TRSE-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 COME-00 DEAE-00 SNM-02 CIEP-01

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R 170615Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9963
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
CINCPAC HI
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK UNN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE UNN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI UNN
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU UNN
AMCONSUL MANDALAY UNN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW UNN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI UNN
ZS /AMEMBASSY PARIS UNN
USLO PEKING UNN
AMCONSUL UDORN UNN

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PFOR BM
SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #26

1. MARTYR'S DAY APPROACHES (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
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WITH THE JULY 19 ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF AUNG SAN (MARTYR'S DAY) APPROACHING, RUMORS CIRCULATE THAT NE WIN WILL SOON BE OFF TO EUROPE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT; AS THE POPULAR BELIEF HAS IT HE IS NEVER IN BURMA ON THAT INAUSPICIOUS DAY. IN ADDITION, A CAMPAIGN IS ALLEGED TO BE UNDERWAY AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO MARK THE OCCASION BY MARCHING TO U THANT'S TOMB AFTER THEIR TRADITIONAL VISIT TO THE MARTYR'S MAUSOLEUM.

2. JUDICIAL DEVELOPMENTS(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S JUSTICE HAS ISSUED A DIRECTIVE DESIGNED TO PROMOTE MORE "EFFECTIVE" COURT SENTENCES TO DETER LAW BREAKERS. CITING A LITANY OF "SERIOUS" CRIMES, RANGING FROM HIGH TREASON TO ELEPHANT SMUGGLING AND INCLUDING DEFAMATION OF THE STATE AND CRIMES AGAINST THE BSPP AS WELL AS NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS, THE COUNCIL HAS ORDERED HIGHER LEVEL COURTS TO REVIEW AND RE-TRY IF NECESSARY LOWER COURT DECISIONS TO ENSURE THAT SENTENCES ARE NOT OVERLY LENIENT. APPARENTLY PRACTICING WHAT THEY PREACH, THE GUB ANNOUNCED SUBSEQUENTLY THAT OF 203 PERSONS FOUND GUILTY OF PARTICIPATING IN LAST MONTH'S DISTURBANCES, PRESUMABLY THOSE ARRESTED AT THE SHWEDAGON PAGODA, EIGHT HAVE BEEN SENTENCED BY SPECIAL TRIBUNALS TO NINE YEARS IN PRISON, NINETEEN TO SEVEN YEAR SENTENCES, 27 TO FIVE YEARS AND 149 TO FOUR YEARS. THE NUMBER FOUND GUILTY AND THE SEVERITY OF THE SENTENCES IS CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN WAS THE CASE OF THOSE DETAINED IN THE WAKE OF LAST DECEMBER'S STUDENT PROTESTS. THEY WERE CHARGED PRINCIPALLY WITH FOMENTING UNREST AND DISTRIBUTING ANTI-GUB OR PRO-BCP PROPAGANDA.

3. MISUSE

DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS (UNCLAS)

CONTINUING THE PARADE OF NEW DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS, THE GUB ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT U BA MAW, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL LAW OFFICE HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA, U PE AUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE KAYAH STATE REGIONAL PARTY COMMITTEE OF THE BSPP, TO THE GDR, AND U THET TUN, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION, TO FRANCE. IN ADDITION, BURMA'S ENVOY TO THE PRC, THAKIN CHAN TUN, HAS BEEN ACCREDITED AS BURMA'S ENVOY TO NORTH KOREA, WITH WHICH THE GUB RECENTLY RAISED RELATIONS FROM CONSULAR TO EMBASSY STATUS.

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4. US/USSR: SOMEBODY LOVES US IN RANGOON (UNCLAS)

PROMPTED PERHAPS BY THE JOINT US/USSR SPACE MISSION, SOVIET CHARGE JILIAEV SENT AN UNUSUALLY EFFUSIVE NOTE ON OCCASION OF US INDEPENDENCE DAY. AFTER OFFERING THE CUSTOMARY CONGRATULATIONS, JILIAEV ADDS, "I EXPRESS MY STRONG BELIEF THAT IMPORTANT POSITIVE CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT YEARS IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS

(WHICH) CONSTITUTE A TANGIBLE FACTOR IN DEVELOPING OF MANIFOLD
RECIPROCAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLES... UNDERSTANDING ALREADY
REACHED AS WELL AS JOINT SPACE MISSIONS TO BE LAUNCHED OR,
EXCUSE MY LOW STYLE, BALLS EXCHANGED ON THE (TENNIS) COURT, ARE
AMPLE EVIDENCE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT... IXCROVING RELATIONS FURTHER
DEEPENS THE RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION THAT IS A REALITY
IN THE WORLD TODAY."

COMMENT: WHATEVER THE REASON, WE PRESUME TENNIS BALL TO TENNIS
BALL IS BETTER THAN EYE BALL TO EYE BALL.

5. EARTHQUAKE AFTERMATH (UNCLAS)

EARTHQUAKE WHICH STRUCK BURMA JULY 8 (RANGOON 1957) CAUSED CON-

SIDERABLE DAMAGE TO ANCIENT EDIFICES AT PAGAN. BUT EXPERTS STILL
ASSESSING DAMAGE, AND GUB MAY REQUEST CONSIDERABLE UNESCO ASSIST-
ANCE TO RESTORE THIS HIYMORIC SITE. DAMAGE TO INDUSTRIAL SITES
ON IRRAWADDY WEST BANK AND TO BURMA'S TWO FERTILIZER PLANTS NEAR
PAGAN APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN VERY MINOR. SMOKESTACK AT FERTILIZER
PLANT AT SALE CRACKED, BUT NO OTHER REPORT OF DAMAGE TO ANY
FACTORY. NEVERTHELESS, QUAKE WILL GIVE PLANT MANAGERS READY
EXCUSE SHOULD THEY FAIL TO MEET PRODUCTION TARGETS FOR THIS YEW.
HOWARTH

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9964

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6. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR BURMA (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

GUB HAS NOW APPROACHED UK, JAPANESE, FRG AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES REGARDING AID CONSORTIUM (WEEKA #25, ITEM 1), BUT IT HAS NOT YET TALKED WITH US ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. THOSE EMBASSIES THAT HAVE BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROACHED REPORT GUB MADE NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AND THEY IN TURN, WHILE OFFERING SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION, REQUESTED MORE DETAILS ON EXACTLY WHAT GUB HAS IN MIND.

IN ANOTHER AREA, JAPANESE EMBOFF SAID RECENT GOJ \$22 MILLION COMMODITY LOAN TO BURMA, AGREED TO DURING FORMER PM TANAKA'S VISIT HERE LAST YEAR, IS FOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY - NOHCONSUMER GOODS. GUB HAS NOT YET FORMULATED SHOPPING LIST. LOAN TERMED "UNTIED LDC LOAN" WHICH ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMBASSY DEFINITION MEANS GUB PURCHASES UNDER LOAN MUST BE FROM JAPAN OR LDC.

COMMENT: GUB APPARENTLY CONFUSED ABOUT TIED RESTRICTIONS OF LOAN AS CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY OFFICIALS RECENTLY APPROACHED EMBASSY REGARDING THEIR DESIRE TO USE PORTION OF LOAN TO PURCHASE HEAVY DUTY CONSTRUCTION AND EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. GOJ WILL NO DOUBT CLARIFY LOAN'S PROVISIONS BEFORE BURMESE GO TOO FAR ASTRAY IN SEARCH OF EQUIPMENT.

7. MINERALS (UNCLAS)

MANAGING DIRECTOR MYANMA MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TOLD EMBOFF THAT PILOT PLANT FOR DEVELOPMENT MONYWA COPPER DEPOSIT (WEEKA #24, ITEM 6) WILL BE COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE AND MAY BE IN OPERATION BY OCTOBER THIS YEAR. U BA THAN HAQ ALSO SAID GUB

INTENDS TO DEVELOP THIS FIELD ON ITS OWN WITH NO FOREIGN PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, AS ONE OF THOSE IN GUB WHO HAS ADVOCATED SOME FORM OF PRIVATE FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN THIS VENTURE, BA THAN HAQ DID NOT FEEL THE DOOR HAS BEEN COMPLETELY CLOSED TO FOREIGN FIRMS. HE SAID THAT AFTER PERHAPS A YEAR OR MORE OF GOING IT ALONE, GUB MAY RECONSIDER THIS DECISION. HIS CORPORATION HAS PREPARED A PLAN FOR PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN BURMA'S MINERAL INDUSTRY, BUT NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON IT. BA THAN HAQ FELT THAT IF AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOREIGN FIRMS NOW EXPLORING OFFSHORE COULD MAKE A MAJOR PETROLEUM FIND, IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE ADVANTAGES OF PRIVATE FOREIGN PARTICIPATION AND ENHANCE PROSPECTS FOR SUCH PARTICIPATION IN ONSHORE MINERAL PROJECTS.

COMMENT: BA THAN HAQ'S OPINION THAT PETROLEUM FIND BY FOREIGN FIRM COULD LEAD TO PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN ONSHORE MINERALS MAY BE CORRECT, BUT WE CAN ALSO FORESEE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH A FIND MIGHT PROVIDE ENOUGH WORKING CAPITAL FOR GUB TO DECIDE IT CAN CONTINUE TO GO IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALONE IN ITS MINERAL DEVELOPMENT. THOSE IN GUB OPPOSING PRIVATE FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN BURMA'S ECONOMY - AND THERE ARE MANY - CAN HAVE IT BOTH WAYS: IF FOREIGN FIRMS DO NOT FIND PETROLEUM, THEY CAN SITE THIS AS EXAMPLE THAT SUCH VENTURES BRING NO GAINS FOR BURMA; IF THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL, THE OPPONENTS CAN CLAIM BURMA HAS THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO DEVELOP ITS RESOURCES ON ITS OWN.

8. NARCOTICS: KYAW NYEIN TRIAL (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

EX-MIS MAJOR KYAW NYEIN, WHO WAS ACCUSED OF COOPERATING WITH AND ACCEPTING BRIBES FROM LO HSING-HAN WHILE SERVING AS A SENIOR MIS OFFICIAL IN THE SHAN STATE, WAS RELEASED AFTER PROSECUTION WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTED PROOF OF HIS TRANSGRESSIONS, ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS. IT WAS A CASE OF ONE'S WORD (LO HSING-MIN'S) AGAINST ANOTHER (KYAW NYEIN). HOWEVER, THE GUB MAY NOT BE FINISHED WITH THE MAJOR; THERE IS, SOME EVIDENCE WHICH LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT KYAW NYEIN WILL BE TRIED AGAIN, THIS TIME FOR POSSESSION OF SMUGGLED GOLD FROM THAILAND, WHICH IS A SERIOUS ECONOMIC OFFENSE. THE EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE AND WAS FOUND IN KYAW NYEIN'S POSSESSION DURING A SEARCH OF HIS PREMISES SOME MONTHS AGO.

COMMENT: IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE MAJOR KYAW NYEIN WAS NOT BROUGHT TO TRIAL FOR A NARCOTICS OFFENSE, THOUGH HE WAS PRESUMABLY ACCEPTING BRIBES RELATED TO NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. HE WAS ORIGINALLY CHARGED (AND FREED) AND LIKELY WILL BE CHARGED AGAIN WITH OFFENSES AGAINST LAWS LC PROTECT THE SOCIALIST ECONOMY.

9. NARCOTICS NOTES (UNCLAS)

IN THREE SEPARATE ACTIONS IN THE MANDALAY AREA DURING THE WEEK, 24 VISS (39 KILOS) OF RAW OPIUM AND 71 PACKETS OF HEROIN WERE

SEIZED, WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$7,500. FIVE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED. DR. PETER BOURNE OF THE DRUG ABUSE COUNCIL ARRIVED ON JULY 13 AND BEGAN CONSULTATIONS WITH DR. NE WIN, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, RANGOON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, AND OTHERS. DR. BOURNE WILL OFFER LECTURES IN RANGOON AND MANDALAY UNTIL JULY 18.

10. SOVIETS OPEN ANTI-FACIST PHOTO EXHIBIT (UNCLAS)

THE SOVIET EMBASSY HOSTED THE MEDIA AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT THE INAUGURATION OF A PHOTO EXHIBIT CELEBRATING THE THIRTIETH ANNI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VERSARY OF THE VICTORY OVER GERMAN FASCISM. THE EXHIBIT, HELD IN THE USSR CULTURAL CENTER, IS MADE UP OF APPROXIMATELY FIFTY PHOTOS, A DOZEN BOOKS AND A STAMP COLLECTION. AT THE SAME TIME, PHOTO PANELS IN FRONT OF THE CULTURAL CENTER CARRY ON THE THEME OF SOCIALIST VICTORY. THE GENERAL PUBLIC DOES NOT COME OFF THE STREET TO VIEW THE EXHIBIT; IT IS PRIMARILY FOR GUESTS AT REGULAR CULTURAL EVENTS OF THE RUSSIAN CENTER.

11. CHARLIE BYRD TRIO PLAYS IN RANGOON (UNCLAS)

DISPELLING ANY OFFICIAL DOUBT ABOUT BURMESE RECEPTIVITY TO JAZZ, THE CHARLIE BYRD TRIO PLAYW TO CAPACITY CROWDS AT TWO EVENING CONCERTS AT RANGOON'S JUBILEE HALL. BOTH NIGHTS, THE YOUNG AUDIENCES ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPLAUDED BYRD'S SELECTIONS RANGING FROM CLASSICAL PIECES THROUGH SCOTT JOPLIN AND BOSSA NOVA TO MODERN MOVIE MUSIC. ONE BAROMETER OF BYRD'S SUCCESS IS THAT BLACK MARKET TICKETS WERE REPORTEDLY SELLING FOR AS HIGH AS ONE HUNDRED KYATS, MORE THAN TWENTY TIMES THE OFFICIAL PRICE. HOWARTH

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